

**Summary of H.R. the Foreign Relations Authorization Act,  
For FY 2010 and 2011**

The Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 supports efforts to rebuild the capacity of the Department of State to fulfill its core diplomatic mission in fulfilling U.S. national security goals. It also authorizes the resources necessary for the United States to meet its financial commitments to the United Nations and other international organizations that support a wide range of U.S. national security, foreign policy and economic goals. In addition, the bill initiates the process of reforming U.S. foreign assistance programs and makes numerous reforms to U.S. security assistance programs.

**Summary and Highlights**

Title I authorizes appropriations at the level of the Administration's request for the Administration of Foreign Affairs accounts, to fund U.S. payments for its assessed share of the expenses of the United Nations and other international organizations, to meet U.S. obligations as a participant in international commissions dealing with boundaries and fisheries, for contributions to the needs of migrants and refugees, and in support of centers and foundations.

Title II provides the Department of State with specific legal authorities it has requested from Congress. It also contains authorities that will enable the Secretary of State to enhance U.S. capacity to conduct public diplomacy. It contains provisions to improve the delivery of Consular services and makes key reforms in the Department's refugee processing and resettlement program.

Title III provides the Department of State with organizational and personnel authorities that will enable the Secretary to modernize and enhance U.S. diplomacy. These authorities include reforms designed to create a more modern and expeditionary Foreign Service with enhanced foreign language capabilities and other 21<sup>st</sup> Century diplomatic tools. It also provides the Secretary of State the authority to hire over 1500 additional entry-level Foreign Service Officers to deal with current staffing shortfalls and new diplomatic challenges. To meet the challenge of undertaking and overhauling U.S. diplomatic capability, the Title provides crucial authorities to enable the Secretary to tap the best talent available for short term assignments to mentor new recruits. The Title also eliminates the current 20 percent reduction in pay that Junior Foreign Service Officers suffer when they are assigned abroad. It requires the Department to track violence, criminalization, and restrictions on fundamental freedoms, consistent with United States law, in foreign countries based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity; directs the Department to encourage the governments of other countries to reform or repeal laws of such countries criminalizing homosexuality or consensual homosexual conduct; and requires human rights reporting on violence or discrimination that affects the fundamental freedoms of an individual in foreign countries that is based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Finally, the Title contains policy directions that would require the Secretary to encourage and monitor diversity

efforts at the Department and ensure that Federal requirements in support of minority contractors are strictly adhered to.

Title IV contains a number of authorities to strengthen critical missions of the United Nations and other international organizations and to enhance U.S. leadership and influence in these organizations. These authorities include mechanisms to develop U.S. diplomatic expertise in the practice of multi-lateral diplomacy and to create career incentives for Foreign Service Officers to develop these skills. The title also includes a number of authorities to support and strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency, particularly its ability to detect violations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The title also provides authority to enhance the U.S. role in the Organization of the American States. Finally, it would lift a legislative cap preventing the United States from paying its agreed assessment for its share of the cost of UN peacekeeping operations.

Title V authorizes appropriations to carry out U.S. international broadcasting activities, and provides requested authority from the Broadcasting Board of Governors to rationalize its use of contractors.

Title VI strengthens the Peace Corps by making it U.S. policy to double the number of volunteers and by authorizing \$450 million in FY 2010.

Title VII would establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation as a new executive branch Corporation to raise funds; award grants; and work with Institutions of Higher Education to dramatically expand the number of U.S. students studying abroad.

Title VIII provides for a wide variety of reforms to the Arms Export Control Act, including modernizing the defense trade control system.

Title IX would enhance efforts at addressing the increasing drug trafficking activity to our south and, especially violence in Mexico and along the U.S.-Mexico border; this includes ensuring that U.S. assistance is effective, coordinated, and carried out in light of factors on the U.S. side of the border.

Title X contains a number of reporting requirements for the Secretary of State to enable the Congress to monitor policy concerns related to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, U.S. Capacities to prevent genocide and mass atrocities, U.S. anti-corruption efforts, and the status of Hong Kong, among others.

Title XI contains a number of policy directives relating to the strengthening of the Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund, diabetes treatment and prevention for Pacific Island countries, U.S. efforts to reduce the number of individuals who are *de jure* or *de facto* stateless, and discrimination in Turkey. It also contains a number of Sense of Congress provisions, including provisions related to democracy in Belarus, Soviet nuclear tests, Holocaust-era property restitution, Sudan, and Vietnam.